

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



July 13, 2021

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Docket Number E-01345A-20-0151

Dear Chairwoman Marquez Peterson and Commissioners,

On behalf of Arizona PIRG Education Fund and Wildfire: Igniting Community Action to End Poverty in Arizona, **we are writing to urge you to approve the proposed 2021 Arizona Public Service Demand-Side Management Plan at your Open Meeting this week.**

Background

As you are well aware, many APS ratepayers continue to find it challenging to pay their bills. Whether impacted by COVID-19, extreme heat, or other circumstances, Arizonans are seeking relief. Energy efficiency provides an opportunity to save money on monthly electric bills for ratepayers that take advantage of program offerings as well as for other ratepayers through the avoidance of new, costly capital infrastructure.

Both of us have been involved in the APS DSM Collaborative, APS Consumer Work Group, and frequently communicate with APS staff regarding customer education and outreach. While improvements are still evolving and necessary, APS' integration of energy efficiency in communication with its ratepayers and their design of programs geared to specifically benefit low-income ratepayers is making notable strides.

Position on Amendments

Arizona PIRG Education Fund and Wildfire very much appreciate and support the concept of Commissioner O'Connor's Proposed Amendment Number 1 but respectfully request the pilot project for Advanced Rooftop Control is amended to only benefit public schools and non-profit facilities. Our organizations do not support using additional ratepayer funds to invest in for-profit entities such as private schools or movie theaters, while many Arizonans and non-profit facilities struggle to stay afloat.

Arizona PIRG Education Fund and Wildfire very much appreciate and support Commissioner Kennedy's Proposed Amendment Number 1 and Revised Proposed Amendment Number 2. Commissioner Kennedy's amendments will respectively ensure continuity with programs that benefit ratepayers and codify the timeline for a previous Commission decision to expand the Tribal Communities Energy Efficiency Program. Additionally, we appreciate and concur with the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project's comments¹ on these amendments.

Conclusion

In closing, we recognize the many benefits that energy efficiency provides ratepayers and encourage you to approve the proposed 2021 APS DSM Plan, along with amendments as noted above, at your Open Meeting this week. Further, to provide consistent financial benefits for ratepayers, we urge the Commission to extend and expand the Energy Efficiency Standard as incorporated in the Energy Rules.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

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¹ <https://docket.images.azcc.gov/E000014581.pdf?i=1626148459509>